

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-12 and 16-33 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 12, 16-19, 30 and 31 are amended and claims 2 and 13-15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 2-10, 15, 16, 19-24 and 26-29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter Pursuant to 35 USC §103

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 11-14, 17, 18, 25 and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,971,028 to Lyle et al (hereinafter “Lyle”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. In view of the Office Action’s indication that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance having been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Further, claims 3-11, 32 and 33 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependant claims 3-11, 32 and 33 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 12 is amended to incorporate the features of dependant claims 13-15. In view of the Office Action’s indication that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is now in condition for allowance having been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13-15. Further, claims 16-29 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 12. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that dependant claims 16-29 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Claims 30 and 31 have also been amended to incorporate features similar to those of allowable claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 30 and 31 are also now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

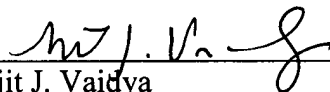
In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the allowance of the above-identified application. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1349. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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HOGAN & HARTSON LLP
555 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5600
Customer No.: 24633


Ajit J. Vaidya
Registration No. 43,214